

## ■ WATERFALL GLEN FOREST PRESERVE

*DuPage County, Illinois*



The 2,474-acre Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve is located in DuPage County, Illinois, one of the fastest growing areas in the country. Originally part of the Argonne National Laboratory, the site was transferred by the Federal Lands to Parks Program to DuPage County in 1973. The Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve began its land purchases here in 1925.

Located only 20 miles west of downtown Chicago, Waterfall Glen provides visitors with outstanding outdoor recreational opportunities, including some of the best hiking, cross-country skiing, fishing, horseback riding, and bicycling in DuPage County. Four main loop trails, ranging from two to eight and a half miles, meander through some of Waterfall Glen's most scenic areas. Waterfall Glen also has several special use areas, including a field for launching model airplanes, a permanently marked orienteering course, and an outdoor education camp used by local youth, scout, and school groups for camping and environmental education.

In addition to these recreational uses, the Preserve is home to more than 600 native plant species and 240 animal species as well as a diverse topography. The topography of Waterfall Glen, and most of DuPage County, was formed by the Wisconsin Glacier. The ridges and potholes scattered through Waterfall Glen are a result of ice action. All of these natural characteristics give Waterfall Glen the greatest diversity of habitat of any DuPage County forest preserve.

